

STA

To make a complete staircase is a curious piece of architecture.  
I cannot forbear mentioning a staircase, where the casings of the ascent, the disposition of the lights, and the convenient landing, are admirably contrived.  
STAKE. *n. f.* [*staca*, Saxon; *stact*, Dutch; *staca*, Spanish.]  
1. A post or strong stick fixed in the ground.  
The more I shak'd the stake, which he had planted in the ground of my heart, the deeper still it sunk into it. *Sidney*.  
His credit in the world might stand the poor town in great stead, as hitherto their ministers foreign estimation hath been the best stake in their hedge. *Hooker*.  
He wanted pikes to set before his archers;  
Instead whereof sharp stakes, pluck'd out of hedges,  
They pitched in the ground. *Shakespeare Henry VI*.  
In France the grapes that make the wine grow upon low vines bound to small stakes, and the raised vines in arbors make but verjuice. *Bacon's Natural History*.  
Or sharpen stakes, or head the forks, or twine  
The fallow twigs to tie the straggling vine. *Dryden*.  
2. A piece of wood.  
While he whirl'd in fiery circles round  
The brand, a sharpen'd stake strong Dryas found,  
And in the shoulder's joint inflicts the wound. *Dryden*.  
3. Any thing placed as a palisade or fence.  
That hollow I should know: what are you, speak?  
Come not too near, you fall on iron stakes else. *Milton*.  
4. The post to which a beast is tied to be baited.  
We are at the stake,  
And bay'd about with many enemies. *Shakespeare Julius Caesar*.  
Have you not set mine honour at the stake,  
And baited it with all th' unmuzzled thoughts  
That tyrannous heart can think? *Shakespeare Twelfth Night*.  
5. Any thing pledged or wagered. I know not well whence it has this meaning.  
'Tis time short pleasure now to take,  
Of little life the best to make,  
And manage wisely the last stake. *Cowley*.  
O then, what interest shall I make  
To save my last important stake,  
When the most just have cause to quake!  
He ventures little for so great a stake. *Roscommon*.  
Th' increasing found is borne to either shore,  
And for their stakes the throwing nations fear. *Dryden*.  
The game was so contrived, that one particular cast took up the whole stake; and when some others came up, you laid down.  
6. The state of being hazarded, pledged, or wagered.  
When he heard that the lady Margaret was declared for it, he saw plainly that his kingdom must again be put to the stake, and that he must fight for it. *Bacon's Henry VII*.  
Are not our liberties, our lives,  
The laws, religion, and our wives,  
Enough at once to lie at stake,  
For cov'nant and the cause's sake? *Hudibras*.  
Of my crown thou too much care dost take;  
That which I value more, my love's at stake. *Dryden*.  
Hath any of you a great interest at stake in a distant part of the world? Hath he ventured a good share of his fortune? *Atti*.  
Every moment Cato's life's at stake. *Addison Cato*.  
7. The stake is a small anvil, which stands upon a small iron foot on the work-bench, to remove as occasion offers; or else it hath a strong iron spike at the bottom let into some place of the work-bench, not to be removed. Its office is to set small cold work straight upon, or to cut or punch upon with the cold chisel or cold punch.  
To STAKE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To fasten, support, or defend with posts set upright.  
Stake and bind up your weakest plants and flowers against the winds, before they in a moment prostrate a whole year's labour. *Evelyn's Calendar*.  
2. To wager; to hazard; to put to hazard.  
Is a man betrayed in his nearest concerns? The cause is, he relied upon the services of a pack of villains, who designed nothing but their own game, and to stake him while they play'd for themselves. *South*.  
Persons, after their prisons have been flung open, have chosen rather to languish in their dungeons than stake their miserable lives on the success of a revolution. *Addison*.  
They durst not stake their present and future happiness on their own chimerical imaginations. *Addison*.  
I'll stake you' lamb that near the fountain plays,  
And from the brink his dancing shade surveys. *Pope*.  
STALACITES. *n. f.* [from *stalactes*.]  
Stalactites is only far in the shape of an icicle, accidentally formed in the perpendicular fissures of the stone. *Woodward*.  
STALACTICAL. *adj.* Resembling an icicle.  
A cave was lined with these stalactical stones on the top and sides. *Derham's Physico-Theology*.  
STALAGMITES. *n. f.* Spar formed into the shape of drops. *Woodward's Meth. P. ff.*

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STALE. *adj.* [*stello*, Dutch.]  
1. Old; long kept; altered by time. Stale is not used of persons otherwise than in contempt.  
This, Richard, is a curious case:  
Suppose your eyes sent equal rays  
Upon two distant pots of ale,  
Not knowing which was mild or stale;  
In this sad state your doubtful choice  
Would never have the casting voice. *Prior*.  
A stale virgin sets up a shop in a place where she is not known. *Spectator*.  
2. Used till it is of no use or esteem; worn out of regard or notice.  
The duke regarded not the muttering multitude, knowing that rumours grow stale and vanish with time. *Hayward*.  
About her neck a packet mail,  
Fraught with advice, some fresh, some stale.  
Many things beget opinion; so doth novelty: wit itself, if stale, is less taking. *Baile*.  
Pompey was a perfect favourite of the people; but his pretensions grew stale for want of a timely opportunity of introducing them upon the stage. *Swift*.  
They reason and conclude by precedent,  
And own stale nonsense which they ne'er invent. *Pope*.  
STALE. *n. f.* [from *stelan*, Saxon, to steal.]  
1. Something exhibited or offered as an allurement to draw others to any place or purpose.  
His heart being wholly delighted in deceiving us, we could never be warned; but rather one bird caught, served for a stale to bring in more. *Sidney*.  
Still as he went he crafty stales did lay,  
With cunning trains him to entrap unware;  
And privy spials plac'd in all his way,  
To weet what course he takes, and how he fares. *Fa. Qu.*  
The trumphy in my house bring hither,  
For stale to catch these thieves. *Shakespeare Timon*.  
Had he none else to make a stale but me?  
I was the chief that rais'd him to the crown,  
And I'll be chief to bring him down again. *Shakespeare Henry VI*.  
A pretence of kindness is the universal stale to all base projects: by this men are robbed of their fortunes, and women of their honour. *Government of the Tongue*.  
It may be a vizor for the hypocrite, and a stale for the ambitious. *Decay of Piety*.  
This easy fool must be my stale, set up  
To catch the people's eyes: he's tame and merciful;  
Him I can manage. *Dryden's Don Sebastian*.  
2. In Shakespeare it seems to signify a prostitute.  
I stand dishonour'd, that have gone about  
To link my dear friend to a common stale. *Shakespeare*.  
3. [From *stale*, *adj.*] Urine; old urine.  
4. Old beer; beer somewhat acidulated.  
5. [Stale, Dutch, a tick.] A handle.  
It hath a long stale or handle, with a button at the end for one's hand. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.  
To STALE. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To wear out; to make old.  
Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale  
Her infinite variety. *Shakespeare Ant. and Cleopatra*.  
Were I a common laughter, or did use  
To stale with ordinary oaths my love  
To every new proteCTOR. *Shakespeare Julius Caesar*.  
A barren-spirited fellow, one that feeds  
On abject orts and imitations;  
Which, out of use, and stal'd by other men,  
Begin his fashion. *Shakespeare Julius Caesar*.  
To STALE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To make water.  
Having ty'd his beast to a pale,  
And taken time for both to stale. *Hudibras*.  
STA'LELY. *adv.* [from *stale*.] Of old; long time.  
All your promis'd mountains  
And seas I am so stally acquainted with. *Ben. Johnson*.  
STA'LENESS. *n. f.* [from *stale*.] Oldness; state of being long kept; state of being corrupted by time.  
The beer and wine, as well within water as above, have not been pall'd; but somewhat better than bottles of the same drinks and staleness, kept in a cellar. *Bacon's Nat. History*.  
Provided our landlord's principles were sound, we did not take any notice of the staleness of his provisions. *Addison*.  
To STALK. *v. n.* [*stalcen*, Saxon.]  
1. To walk with high and superb steps. It is used commonly in a sense of dislike.  
His monstrous enemy  
With sturdy steps came stalking in his sight. *Fairy Queen*.  
Shall your city call us lord,  
In that behalf which we'll demand it?  
Or shall we give the signal to our rages  
And stalk in blood to our possession? *Shakespeare R. John*.  
Unfold th' eternal door:  
You see before the gate what stalking ghost  
Commands the guard, what sentries keep the post. *Dryden*.  
Bertran

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Stalks close behind her, like a witch's fiend  
Pressing to be employ'd. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar*.  
They pass their precious hours in plays and sports,  
Till death behind came stalking on unseen. *Dryden*.  
With manly mien he stalk'd along the ground;  
Nor wanted voice bely'd, nor vaunting found. *Dryden*.  
Then stalking through the deep  
He fords the ocean, while the topmost wave  
Scarce reaches up his middle side. *Addison*.  
'Tis not to stalk about, and draw fresh air  
From time to time. *Addison's Cato*.  
Vexatious thought still found my flying mind,  
Nor bound by limits, nor to place confin'd;  
Haunted my nights, and terrify'd my days;  
Stalk'd through my gardens, and pursu'd my ways,  
Nor shut from artful bow'r, nor lost in winding maze. *Pri.*  
Scentful turning from the shore  
My haughty step, I stalk'd the valley o'er. *Pope's Odyssey*.  
2. To walk behind a stalking horse or cover.  
The king asked how far it was to a certain town: they said six miles. Half an hour after he asked again: one said six miles and a half. The king alighted out of his coach, and crept under the shoulder of his led horse: and when some asked his majesty what he meant, I must stalk, said he; for yonder town is shy, and flies me. *Bacon's Apophthegms*.  
STALK. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. High, proud, wide, and stately step.  
Behind it forth there leapt  
An ugly fiend, more foul than dismal day;  
The which with monstrous stalk behind him stept,  
And ever as he went due watch upon him kept. *Fa. Queen*.  
Great Milton next, with high and haughty stalks,  
Unfetter'd in majestic numbers walks. *Addison*.  
2. [Stalk, Dutch.] The stem on which flowers or fruits grow.  
A stock-gillyflower, gently tied on a stick, put into a sleep glass full of quicksilver, so that the quicksilver cover it; after five days you will find the flower fresh, and the stalk harder and less flexible than it was.  
Small store will serve, where store,  
All seasons, ripe for use hangs on the stalk. *Milton*.  
That amber attracts not baill is wholly repugnant unto truth; for if the leaves thereof, or dried stalks, be stripped unto small straws, they arise unto amber, wax, and other electrics, no otherways than those of wheat and rye. *Brown*.  
Roses unhid, and ev'ry fragrant flower,  
Flew from their stalks to strew thy nuptial bow'r. *Dryden*.  
3. The stem of a quill.  
Viewed with a glass, they appear made up of little bladders, like those in the plume or stalk of a quill. *Grew*.  
STALKINGHORSE. *n. f.* [*stalking and horse*.] A horse either real or fictitious by which a Fowler shelters himself from the sight of the game; a mask; a pretence.  
Let the counsellor give counsel not for fiction but for conscience, forbearing to make the good of the state the stalking-horse of his private ends. *Haleswell on Providence*.  
Hypocrisy is the devil's stalking-horse, under an affectation of simplicity and religion. *L'Estrange*.  
STALKY. *adj.* [from *stalk*.] Hard like a stalk.  
It grows upon a round stalk, and at the top bears a great stalky head. *Mortimer*.  
STALL. *n. f.* [*stall*, Saxon; *stal*, Dutch; *stalla*, Italian.]  
1. A crib in which an ox is fed, or where any horse is kept in the stable.  
A herd of oxen then he carv'd, with high rais'd heads,  
For'd all  
Of gold and tin, for colour mixt, and bellowing from their stalls.  
Rush't to their pastures. *Chapman's Iliad*.  
Duncan's horses,  
Beauteous and swift, the minions of the race,  
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,  
Contending 'gainst obedience. *Shakespeare Macbeth*.  
Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses. *1 Kings iv*.  
His fellow sought what lodging he could find;  
At last he found a stall where oxen stood. *Dryden*.  
2. A bench or form where any thing is set to sale.  
Stalls, bulks, windows,  
Are smother'd up, leads fill'd, and ridges hors'd  
With variable complexions; all agreeing  
In earnestness to see him. *Shakespeare Coriolanus*.  
They are nature's coarser wares that lie on the stall, exposed to the transient view of every common eye. *Glavin*.  
Beh! Hoy first found it troublesome to bawl,  
And therefore plac'd her cherries on a stall.  
How pedlars stalks with glittering toys are laid,  
The various fairings of the country maid.  
Harley, the nation's great support,  
Returning home one day from court,  
Observ'd a parson near Whitehall,  
Cheap'ning old authors on a stall. *Swift*.

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3. [Stall, Swedish; *stal*, Armoric.] A small house or shed in which certain trades are practis'd.  
All these together in one heap were thrown,  
Like carcases of beasts in butcher's stall;  
And in another corner wide were thrown  
The antique ruins of the Roman's fall. *Fairy Queen*.  
The antique ruins in the choir.  
4. The seat of a dignified clergyman in the choir.  
The pope creates a canon beyond the number limited, and commands the chapter to assign unto such canon a stall in the choir and place in the chapter. *Ayliffe's Parergon*.  
The dignified clergy, out of mere humility, have called their thrones by the names of stalls. *Warburton*.  
To STALL. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To keep in a stall or stable.  
For such enchafon, if you go nie,  
Few chimneys recking you will cloy;  
The fat ox, that wont ligg in the stall,  
Is now stall'd in his crumal. *Spenser's Pastorals*.  
For my part, he keeps me rustically at home; or, to speak more properly, flies me here at home unkept: for call you that keeping, for a gentleman of my birth, that differs not from the stalling of an ox?  
Nifus the forest pass'd,  
And Alban plains, from Alba's name to call'd,  
Where king Latinus then his oxen stall'd. *Dryden*.  
2. [For *in stall*.] To inveigle.  
Long may'st thou live to wait thy children's loss;  
And see another as I see thee now,  
Deck'd in thy rights, as thou art stall'd in mine. *Shakespeare*.  
To STALL. *v. n.*  
1. To inhabit; to dwell.  
We could not stall together in the world. *Shakespeare*.  
2. To kennel.  
STA'LL'ED. *adj.* [*stall and fed*.] Fed not with grass but dry feed.  
Stall'd oxen, and cramm'd fowls, are often diseased in their livers. *Arbuthnot on Animals*.  
STA'LL'WORN. *adj.* [*stall and worn*.] Long kept in the stable. But it is probably a mistake for *stallworn*, [*stallworn*, Saxon, stout.]  
His stallworn steed the champion front bestrode. *Shakespeare*.  
STA'LL'Y. *n. f.* [*stall*, an old Welch word: the one is derived from the other; but which from which I cannot certainly tell. *Wotton*. *Estallion*, French; *stall*, Italian; *stallhengst*, Dutch. *Junius* thinks it derived from *stall*, to leap.]  
A horse kept for mares.  
The present defects are breeding without choice of stallions in shape or size.  
If fleet Dragon's progeny at last  
Prove jaded, and in frequent matches cast;  
No favour for the stallion we retain,  
And no respect for the degenerate strain. *Dryden*.  
I will not ask him one of his Egyptians;  
No, let him keep 'em all for slaves and stallions. *Dryden*.  
STAMINA. *n. f.* [Latin.]  
1. The first principles of any thing.  
2. The folds of a human body.  
3. [In botany.] Those little fine threads or capillaments which grow up within the flowers of plants, encompassing round the style, and on which the apices grow at their extremities.  
STAMINEOUS. *adj.* [*stamineus*, Latin.]  
1. Consisting of threads.  
2. Staminate flowers.  
Staminate flowers are so far imperfect as to want those coloured leaves which are called petals, and consist only of the stylus and the stamina; and such plants as do bear these staminate flowers Ray makes to constitute a large genus of plants: these he divides into such as, first, have their fruit or seed totally divided from the flower; and these are such plants as are said to be of different sexes: the reason of which is, that from the said seed some plant shall arise with flowers and no fruit, and others with fruit and no flowers; as hops, hemp, flinging nettles. 2. Such as have their fruit only a little disjointed from their flowers; as the ricinus, and the heliotropium triconon. 3. Such as have their fruit immediately contiguous, or adhering to their flower. 4. Such whose flowers adhere to the top or uppermost of the seed; as the beta, asarum, and alchimilla.  
STAMMEL. *n. f.* Of this word I know not the meaning.  
Recit'hood, the first that doth appear  
In stammel: scarlet is too dear. *Ben. Johnson*.  
To STAMMER. *v. n.* [*stammer*, a stammerer, Saxon; *stammer*, *stammeren*, to stammer, Dutch.] To speak with unnatural hesitation; to utter words with difficulty.  
Sometimes to her news of myself to tell  
I go about; but then is all my best  
Vry words, and stammering, or else doltish dumb:  
Say then, can this but of enchantment come? *Sidney*.  
I would thou could'st stammer, that thou might'st pour out  
Of thy mouth, as wine comes out of a narrow-mouth'd bottle,  
either too much at once, or none at all. *Shakespeare*.  
She